TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 7 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 2.7 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 836.1 billion ton-miles, down 4.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 7 totaled 371,136, down 2.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 23.8 percent above the preceding holiday week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.3 percent in the East, but down 2.3 percent in the South and 4.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Carloadings of grain were down by 4,864 cars (16.9 percent). Nineteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the holiday week ended November 30 totaled 70,689 trailers and/or containers, 22.3 percent below the corresponding non-holiday week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 4,174,554 trailers and/or containers, down 1.4 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/7/85:

	Loadings in Week ended December 7, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,997	D	4,864	16.9	I	3,121	15.0
Other farm products	4,549	D	234	4.9	I	913	25.1
Metallic ores	11,847	D	914	7.2	D	680	5.4
Coal	107,891	I	1,311	1.2	I	18,276	20.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,915	I	629	6.1	I	2,581	31.0
Nonmetallic minerals	11,006	I	574	5.5	I	4,049	58.2
Grain mill products	10,787	D	114	1.0	I	2,364	28.1
Food and kindred products	11,229	D	148	1.3	I	2,663	31.1
Primary forest products	11,120	D	1,439	11.5	I	3,793	51.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,213	D	746	10.7	I	1,130	22.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,895	D	1,003	6.7	I	1,649	13.5
Chemicals and allied products	24,131	I	737	3.2	I	5,140	27.1
Petroleum products	4,749	D	101	2.1	I	1,336	39.1
Stone, clay and glass products	9,146	D	889	8.9	I	1,882	25.9
Coke	5,099	I	1,007	24.6	I	879	20.8
Metals and products	7,844	I	365	4.9	I	520	7.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,595	D	249	1.1	I	6,288	38.6
Waste and scrap materials	7,531	D	753	9.1	I	1,937	34.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,208	D	1,250	16.8	I	896	16.9
All other carloads	60,252	I	91	0.2	I	12,522	26.5
LCL traffic	132	D	41	23.7	D	4	2.9
Total Cars Loaded	371,136	D	8,031	2.1	I	71,255	23.8
Corresponding week of 1984	379,167						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks)	18,400,675	19,258,591	D 4.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
48 Weeks ended November 30	818.9	856.5	D 4.4
Week ended December 7	17.1	17.6	D 2.7
49 Weeks cumulative	836.1	874.1	D 4.4

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